

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Romania

SUBJECT The Progresul Factory  
in Braila

PLACE 25X1C

ACQUIRED

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25X1X

1. The former Franco Romano Factory in Braila, now known as the Progresul Factory, is situated about 1,800 meters northeast of Braila. It is under the direction of the Ministry of Metalurgy and has about 3,800 employees. There are three sections in the factory; casting, mechanical, and naval sections.
2. The factory is now adequately supplied with raw material for the production of gear and rigs for oil wells to be used by the Sovrompetrol enterprise, as well as vessels for the Soviets.
3. The casting section is headed by the "political responsible" Comrade Motoc. He is in charge of the "socialistic competition" of the section and generally manages to keep up his record by casting spare parts with an exceptionally high percentage of waste materials.
4. The mechanical section is now producing tanks for oil storage on Soviet orders. No other products are currently being manufactured by this section.
5. The naval section is currently manufacturing launches and vedettes. The motors for these vessels, destined for the Soviet Union, come from abroad. The orders for the launches are initiated by the Rumanian Navy Ministry, but the final destination is the Soviet Union.
6. In the workshop for heavy machines, there are modern machines working on the completion of steam engines with a horsepower of 1,000 each for four minelayers. The Progresul firm is actively concerned about the slow progress of the work on these engines, because of the lack of experience on the part of the mechanics who have not undertaken work of this type previously.
7. Since November 1950, the orders left by various enterprises were ignored and only items of military use receive priority. The assembly of the final product is done in great secrecy; the parts for the final order are distributed in order to keep the project as secret as possible.
8. In June 1949 a smelting furnace was begun; up to February 1951, this furnace had not been finished. In May 1950, a Siemens Martin six-ton furnace was ordered and installed by the end of 1950. The furnace is now in use.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A

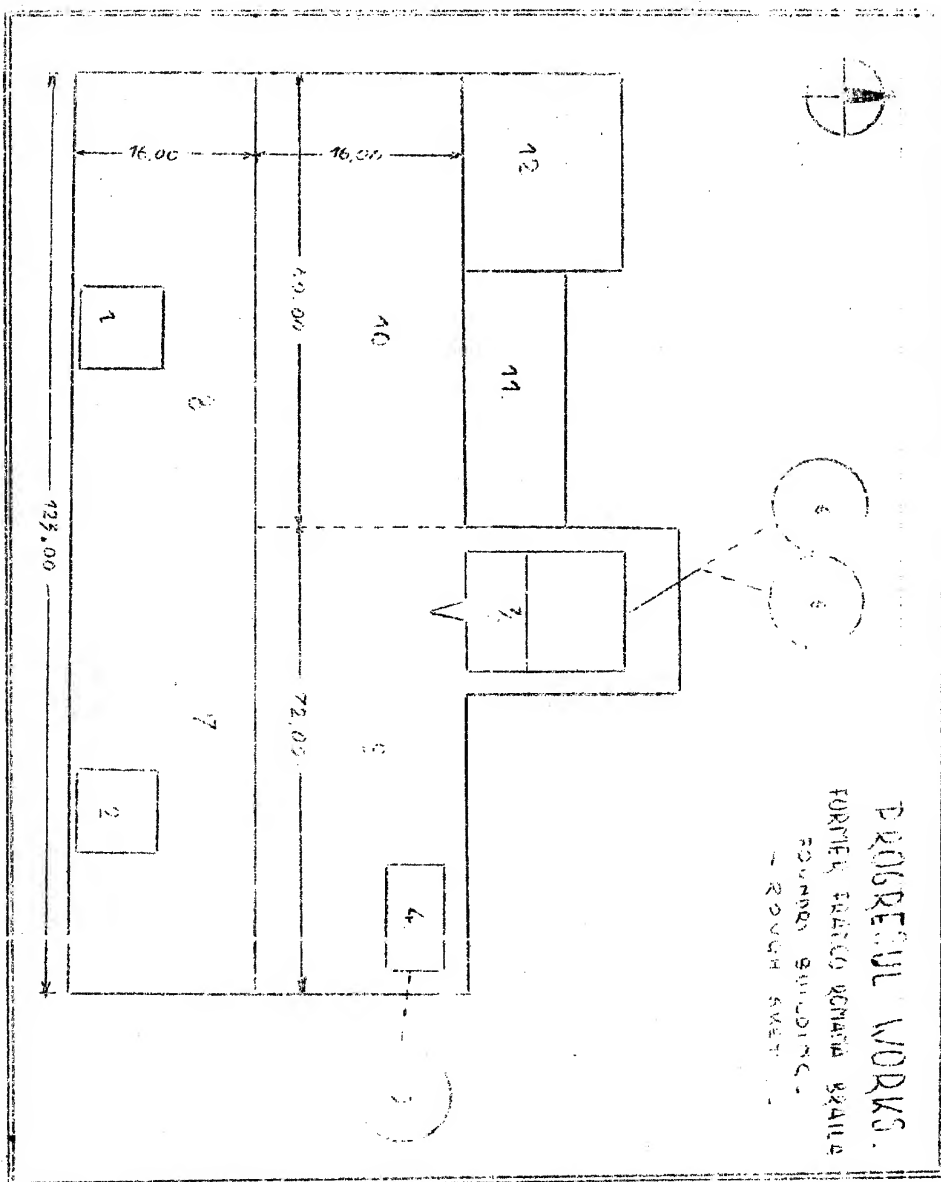
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9. The machine tools are wearing out and the few replacements which arrive from the Soviet Union are considered vastly inferior by the workmen.
10. The production program for 1950 called for 32 oil rigs. This program was not completely fulfilled because some of the component parts, made by the Steagul Rosu Factory in Brasov, had not arrived. Twelve vessels consisting of the launches and vedettes were floated during the program and about 12,000 tons of steel and iron was produced. About 280 small towers for use on the frontiers were also manufactured during the year, and the above-mentioned four steam engines also were included in the past year's production record.
- 25X1X
11. In the heavy machines branch of the mechanic section [REDACTED] there are lathes of the 10 - 15 meter (sic) type. Large "grinders" and drills and other machinery for the construction of oil reservoir tanks are also located in this branch. The steel furnaces are of the Stan and Roubaix type with a capacity of 1.5 tons. There are two "rotating ovens" of five ton capacity and two other smelting furnaces. In March 1951, a "regulator" for the Siemens Martin furnace is scheduled to be installed. It weighs six tons (sic). A steel press with a force of 1,500 kilograms will also be placed in use in March 1951.
12. According to the Five Year Plan, the oil rig production will cease and casting of spare parts will be increased. The construction of vessels is still called for in the Plan.
13. Security measures have been considerably tightened within the past six months. Special identification cards are needed to enter the factory grounds and the Paza guards are located every 20 meters at fixed sentry posts. Towers with searchlights and a guard with a machine gun located on it, are planned to replace the sentry posts.
14. Two sketches of the Progresul Factory are attached.

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1. Electric furnace; two ton capacity.
2. Cast iron furnace; two ton capacity.
3. Siemens-Martin furnace; six ton capacity.
4. Furnace (for molds).
5. Underground reservoir; 20 carload capacity.
6. Underground reservoir; 100 carload capacity.
7. Foundry for cast iron.
8. Foundry for steel.
9. Foundry for steel; Siemens-Martin.
10. Finishing shop for cast pieces.
11. Tools and laboratory section.
12. Steam power plant.

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Drawn from memory by informant and submitted to intermediate source

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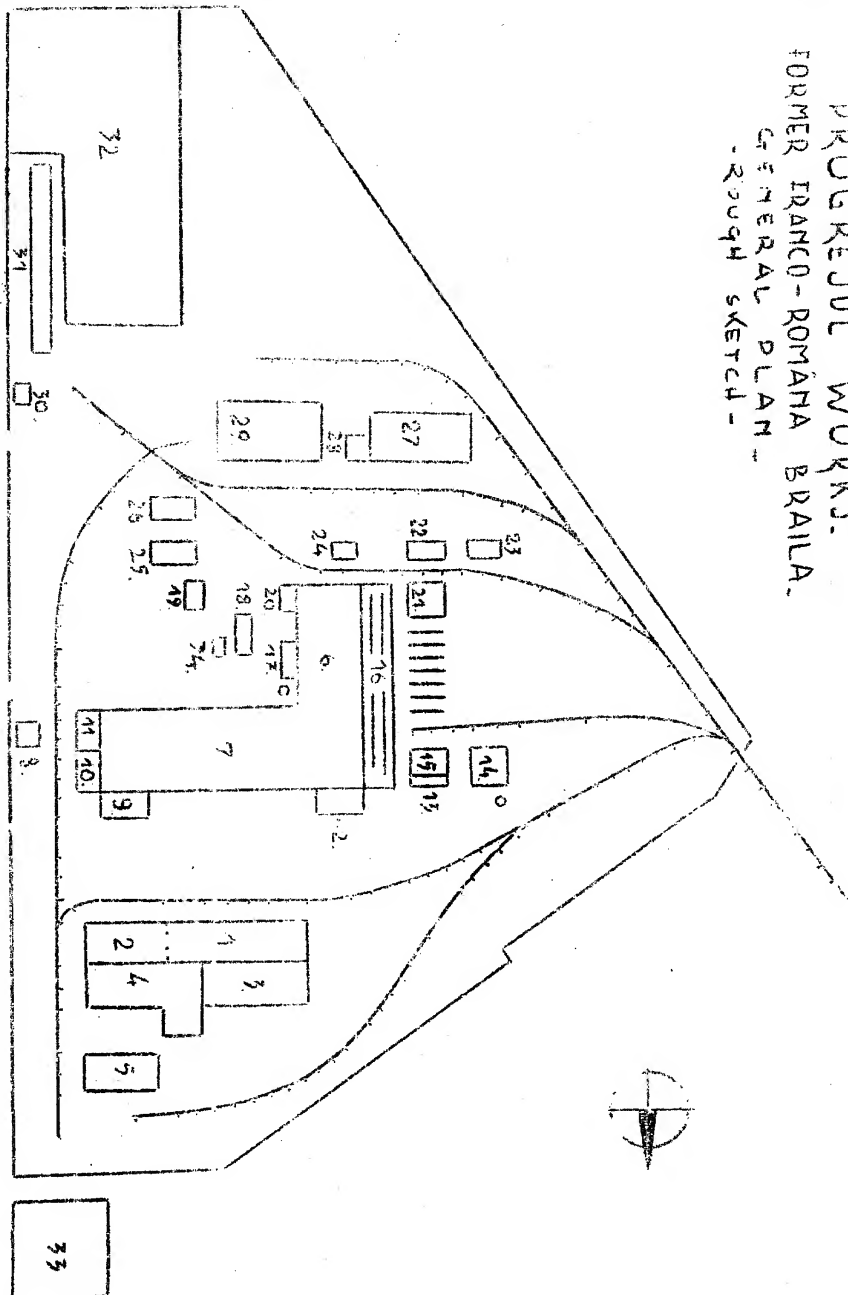
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PROGRESUL WORKS.  
FORMER IRANCO-ROMANA BRAILA.  
GENERAL PLAN -  
ROUGH SKETCH -

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1. Foundry for cast iron
2. Foundry for cast iron
3. Finishing shop for steel pieces
4. Foundry for steel (Semen-Martin furnace). This is newly installed
5. Carpenter and modeling shop
6. Boiler shop
7. Heavy boiler shop
8. Communist factory building (in Rumarian: "Ambitisa")
9. (?) (In Rumarian: "Ambitisa")
10. Compressors
11. Fire Brigade Station
12. Valve manufacturing shop
13. Pattern shop (wood models)
14. Forge. This is newly installed
15. Investment service warehouse
16. Electric crane
17. Powerhouse
18. Administration office
19. Laboratories
20. Central warehouse
21. Locomotive workshops
22. Central tool shop
23. Projects and studies office
24. Warehouse for finished parts
25. Bronze casting section
26. Armature shop
27. Blacksmith shop (called "hoebok")
28. Offices
29. R.M.P. Heavy mechanical section. It is alleged that this is the section where ammunition of large caliber is now being made clandestinely
30. Syndicate building
31. Living quarters for apprentices
32. Athletic field
33. Transformers, electric power lines come from Bessa
34. Garage

Drawn from memoir of informant and submitted to an intermediate source

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